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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 684
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor Coach Pat Head Summitt and the 1998
NCAA Women's Basketball Champion, the
Tennessee Lady Volunteers.

WHEREAS, at the heart of every successful collegiate athletics program burns a
competitive fire and insatiable will to succeed that transcends all sports, establishing such
programs among the elite of all time; and

WHEREAS, nowhere is this desire to succeed more evident than at the University of
Tennessee, where Pat Summitt and her Lady Volunteers have ascended to dizzying heights in
the world of women's basketball, establishing a basketball dynasty never before witnessed; and

WHEREAS, once again the University of Tennessee Lady Vols have established
themselves as the preeminent team in women's collegiate athletics, capturing the coveted 1998
NCAA Women's Basketball Championship; and

WHEREAS, in what was a perfect conclusion to a perfect 39-0 season, the Lady Vols
dominated the Lady Techsters of Louisiana Tech before a packed house of Big Orange fans at
Kemper Arena in Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, for their memorable achievement the Lady Vols received the coveted Sears
Trophy, presented annually to the top-ranked team in the final USA Today/CNN Women's
Basketball Coaches Association Poll; and

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WHEREAS, the Lady Vols' "reign of terror" began on the first day of basketball practice last fall when 11,000 fans showed up for "Midnight Madness", and during the season nearly 240,000 ardent orange-clad supporters would push through the Thompson-Boling Arena turnstiles to see this "dynasty-in-the-making"; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ended regular season play with an enviable 30-0 record, capturing the Big Apple Classic, the Northern Lights Invitational, and winning against Illinois in the SEC/Big Ten Challenge; and

WHEREAS, at the SEC Tournament in Columbus, Georgia, the Lady Vols bullied Mississippi State, 88-60, and sank Vanderbilt, 106-45, en route to a 67-63 stemming of the Crimson Tide to win their eighth tournament crown; the three "Meeks", Chamique Holdsclaw, Tamika Catchings and Semeka Randall, garnered all-tournament honors, with Chamique being selected tournament Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, in the first round of NCAA Tournament action against Liberty University, the Lady Vols extinguished the Flames, 102-58, before toppling the Western Kentucky Lady 'Toppers, 82-62; and

WHEREAS, an orange sea of rowdy Tennessee fans at Vanderbilt's Memorial Gym saw the three "Meeks" combine for 65 points to defeat the Scarlet Knights of Rutgers, 92-60, advancing the Lady Vols against a talented North Carolina team in the Regional Final; and

WHEREAS, the team's patented transition game, quickness, defensive intensity and sheer will to win enabled the Lady Vols to rise to their greatest challenge of the year as Teresa Geter and Chamique Holdsclaw hit key baskets, helping the team rally from 12 points down to defeat the Lady Tar Heels, 76-70, earning yet another berth in the Final Four; and

WHEREAS, in semifinal play at Kansas City's Kemper Arena, Semeka Randall's intense play set the tone early as the Lady Vols pressured the Arkansas Lady Razorbacks into 28 turnovers en route to a 86-58 victory and a fourth consecutive berth in the championship game; and

WHEREAS, with their 44-game winning streak and 38-0 record on the line against Louisiana Tech, the Lady Vols capped the greatest single season ever seen in the NCAA game, in a 93-75 battering of the Lady Techsters; and

WHEREAS, led by arguably the greatest women's college player ever, Chamique Holdsclaw, who finished with 25 points, 10 rebounds, and another Most Valuable Player trophy to add to her "collection" of hardware, Tennessee became the first NCAA women's team to win three consecutive NCAA Championships since Immaculata College and Delta State accomplished that feat as part of the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, and are just the third unbeaten team to lay claim to the title since 1982; and

WHEREAS, Tamika Catchings turned in her typical "unfreshmanlike" performance for the Lady Vols, scoring the game high 27 points from both inside and outside the perimeter; Sparta's Kellie Jolly put on a three-point shooting clinic, scoring 20 points, while Semeka Randall drove, spun and danced her way to 10 points in the game; and

WHEREAS, Jolly's joyous skipping to the Tennessee bench with both index fingers raised, offering her teammates leaping high-fives beneath a sea of orange pom-poms will forever be etched in the memory of Big Orange supporters; and

WHEREAS, for her outstanding Final Four play, Chamique Holdsclaw received the Most Outstanding Player Award, while Tamika Catchings and Kellie Jolly garnered all-tournament accolades; and

WHEREAS, other team members who contributed immeasurably to the success of the 1998 Champion Lady Vols include: senior, Laurie Milligan; juniors, Misty Greene and Brynae Laxton; sophomores, Niya Butts, Kyra Elzy and LaShonda Stevens; and freshmen, Semeka Randall, Kristen "Ace" Clement and Teresa "Tree" Geter; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Vols' aggressive, attacking game, marked by both speed and athleticism has taken women's basketball to a new level; the team shattered records, made 30-point blowouts look routine and did things never before witnessed in the game; and

WHEREAS, during her storied 24-year career, Coach Pat Summitt's teams have won an incredible six of the last 12 NCAA Women's Basketball Championships, and she now trails UCLA coaching legend John Wooden by only four titles; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt is especially grateful for the support of her adroit staff, including Assistant Coaches Mickie DeMoss, Holly Warlick and Al Brown, and Volunteer Administrative Assistant Coach Sherry Dihel, all of whom have played an integral role in developing this team into championship caliber; and

WHEREAS, those also deserving of this body's commendation for their unflagging support of Coach Summitt and the team include the University of Tennessee Women's Athletic Director Joan Cronan; Director of Basketball Operations Kelly P. Sahner; Basketball Secretary Katie Wynn; Team Psychologist Nina Elliott; Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations Debby Jennings, Assistant Director of Media Relations Eric Trainer, and student assistants; Head Athletic Trainer Jenny Moshak and assistants; and Team Managers Kelli Botta, Sarah DeLapp, Drew Johnson, Cindy Masters and Lee Turpin; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly and Lady Vol fans everywhere take great delight in honoring this extraordinary group of young women who sold the tickets, won the games and earned the rings; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers for winning the 1998 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship and extend to them our best wishes for every future success both on and off the court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to each of the above-named persons with this final clause omitted from such copies.

